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ornament introduced in it being a few easily-worked mouldings and a little inlay of colored woods.

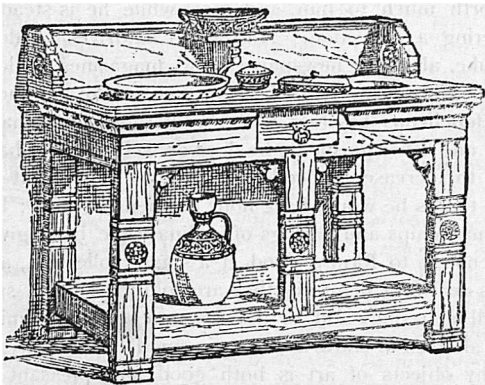
In the matter of toilet tables he favors simplicity hardly less severe. We have his idea on the subject in the accompanying illustration of "a chest of drawers which may occasionally be used for a toilet table in a small dressing-room." "It is, of course, not intended for ladies' use," he adds, at which the ladies will draw a sigh of relief. They must know, though, that he protests "humbly but emphatically against the practice which exists of encircling toilet-tables with a sort of muslin petticoat, generally stiffened by a crinoline of pink or blue calico. Something of the same kind may be occasionally seen twisted round the frame of the toilet-glass. They just represent a milliner's notion of what is 'pretty,' and nothing more. Drapery of this kind neither is wanted nor ought to be introduced in such places."

The brass or iron bedstead is strongly favored by Mr. Eastlake, chiefly because it is *cleaner* than the wooden bedstead. When iron is used he protests against painting it in ordinary oil color, which gives it a commonplace "sticky" appearance, to avoid which "flatted" color should be used. The framework for the canopy overhead, he remarks, is generally far too weak for its purpose, and often vibrates with the least movement, causing infinite annoyance to invalids and nervous people. In old days the outside corners of this canopy were frequently suspended from the ceiling, as is shown in our illustration of a bedstead after Mr. Eastlake's ideas. This plan, he thinks, is still advisable when the supporting brackets are found to be rickety; but he truly adds, that if they were of stout iron and properly constructed, they would need no such support.

Speaking of bed-curtains, he says: "They should never be made longer than is necessary for actual use. If they hang within two or three inches of the floor it will be quite near enough. When of greater length

decorated with fringe, but where plaits are used the fringe should be omitted, as it is apt to get tangled and pull the plaits out of shape. Box-plaits are the best to use, and should never be less than four or five inches in width, at intervals of about eight or ten. They should be pressed down as flat as possible, and when necessary, may be kept in shape by a stitch on either side."

It will be readily understood that within the limits of the two short papers we have devoted to Eastlake and his ideas we can have only touched lightly and



EASTLAKE WASHSTAND.

inadequately on a subject about which there is much more to be said. "Hints on Household Taste" is a volume that at the present day is perhaps a little out of date, inasmuch as very many of the suggestions contained in it for the improvement of domestic furniture have been taken up practically and energetically by the British tradesmen at whom they were chiefly levelled, and some of the principal evils of which Mr. Eastlake complained no longer exist. Our furniture-workers in America have followed quickly in the footsteps of their transatlantic brethren, and in some cases have overtaken them. So that, altogether, decided good has come from the publication of the book. If we are not mistaken, it has been republished by a Boston firm of publishers.

#### A NOVELTY IN DECORATIVE GLASS.

THE ingenuity employed by the Romans in producing variety in glass vessels was most remarkable, and many methods of manipulation that are considered new have in reality been anticipated by the glass-workers of that period. The art of imbedding gems and gold in glass is one belonging to this category. Specimens of glass thus decorated are preserved in museums, but the secrets of the process by which these results were obtained had been lost, and have only been rediscovered within the last year or two by a French gentleman, M. d'Humy, whose invention covers a variety of purposes, the chief of which relates, however, to the minute division of gold and silver embodied in glass. This he effects by blowing a piece of glass in a cylindrical or other shaped mould, the latter being heated to a high temperature, and the glass article itself left open at its upper part. The operation is repeated in a mould of smaller diameter, and the smaller article is covered either wholly or partially with leaf-gold or metallic powder, which must, however, in either case be thin enough to become broken up or divided by the expansion of the glass. The smaller cylinder is next introduced into the first, and then more molten "metal" is blown into the former, so that the three layers become amalgamated, the gold or silver being between. The finishing processes subsequently employed are those ordinarily in use. The procedure varies more or less if it is intended to produce regular designs, or to introduce monograms in solid metal, but the above is for all practical purposes the method generally followed to effect the fusion of gold or silver with glass.

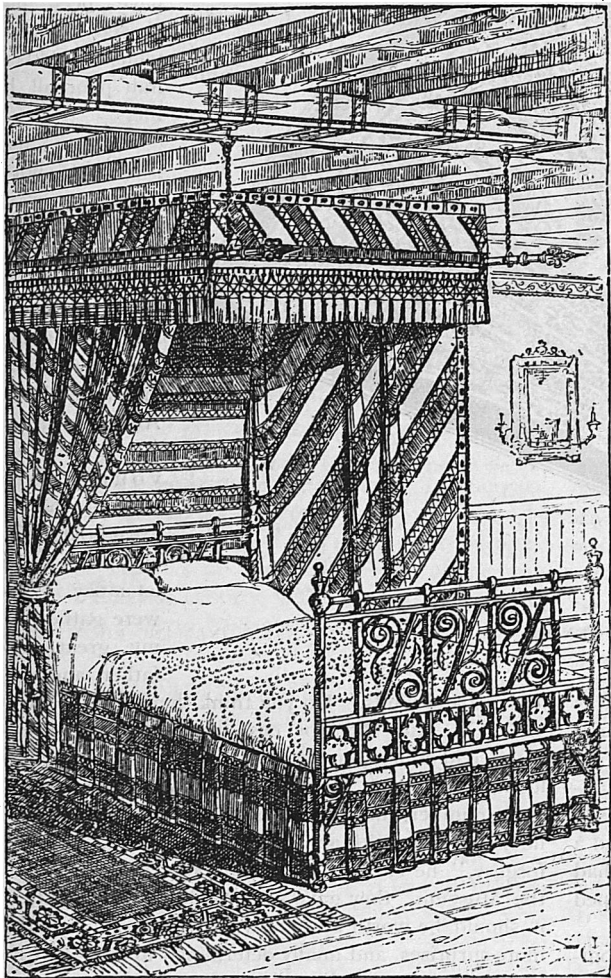
The effects obtained by these layers of gold—whether solid, granulated, or mottled—are in some cases extremely pleasing, the decorative appearance of the glass being much enhanced by what is actually a substratum of gold, silver, or platinum. In the ruby-tinted, green, and other colored glasses an exceptional brilliancy is thus obtained. The articles consist principally of

smelling-bottles, table-glass, candlesticks, and a few minor pieces of a decorative character.

#### DECORATIVE METAL TILES AND PLAQUES.

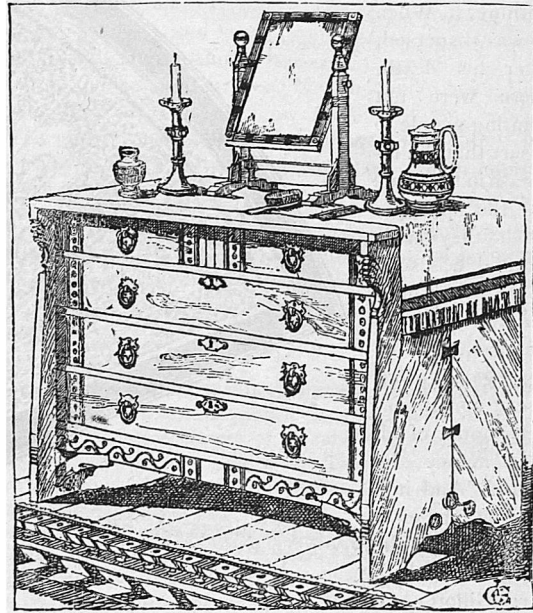
ACCORDING to an English hardware journal, experiments in the application of iron and steel to the manufacture of wall decorations, instead of the ordinary decorative tiles of earthenware, have been made with much success. The writer says: "An examination of the metallic wall decorations, which are termed 'metallic decorative tiles,' convinces us that their inventor has devised a substitute for the ordinary tiles which is not only quite equal to them in appearance, but which possesses many advantages, including that of lesser cost, which render them superior to the ordinary decorative tiles." They are manufactured, as we learn, from soft iron or steel, rolled into thin sheets; both sides of these sheets are then well tinned, and afterward varnished by a special process, the object of which last procedure is to insure complete protection of the plates from dampness. The next process consists in enamelling the surface and printing the pattern, and finally comes the glazing. The plate thus prepared is then subjected to a high heat, but not enough to cause vitrification, when the operation is complete. These metallic tiles are flexible, will not fly under heat, and will stand considerable rough usage without becoming defaced. They are fixed in place by pins in the wall, and are fitted to each other by the simple artifice of flanging two of the sides. They can be washed when soiled.

Metal plaques are being introduced to which the name of "Stannate Bronze" has been given. The plaques are made in various sizes, and are adapted to the usual positions in furniture. Stannate appears to be a hard amalgam of white metals, and the makers vary the style of finish by depositing a surface layer of



EASTLAKE BEDSTEAD.

they trail upon the carpet and get soiled at their edges, or when drawn back they have to be looped up and pulled over the cord which confines them to their place. Curtains, whether for a window or a bed, should be simply tied back when not in use. The disposing them in heavy and artificial folds, such as one sees depicted sometimes at one corner of a theatrical drop-scene or behind the 'portrait of a gentleman' at the Academy, is one out of many instances which might be quoted to illustrate the perversion of modern taste in such matters. The canopy may be either disposed in plaits or



EASTLAKE TOILET TABLE.

brass, copper, or bronze upon the material by electricity. The designs are in low relief, and the prices low. Stannate, it is stated, may be used for door-knobs, bell-pulls, handles, hinges, escutcheons, and many other purposes.

A NEW style of cornice, just introduced from Germany, is made of wood, gilt, ebonized, or otherwise treated. Upon this, in the proper positions, are fixed bands or beadings in stamped brass, bronzed in a variety of colors, the prominent parts being relieved by burnishing in the usual way, or they are colored in neutral tints to harmonize with the wall-papers of last century styles. Mouldings for encircling the tops of rooms, and dados of the same character, are provided, if required, "en suite."

THE "valance-suspender," just patented, is an adaptation of the ordinary safety-pin, in several sizes and patterns, for bed or window hangings, and allows of the lifting off of valances, curtains, etc., without unpinning.

PIERCED brass fronts are coming into vogue again for fenders, and running bright steel and ornamental iron hard in the market.